

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10 are amended.

In the Office Action dated January 27, 2005, claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-8, 10-17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Kimura, U.S. Patent No. 6,657,486.

***Allowable claims 9 and 18***

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 9 and 18.

***The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph***

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the load transistor pair has substrates connected to their respective sources. (See, e.g., M2 and M3 in FIG. 1 of the present application.) Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, first paragraph rejections.

***The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)***

Claims 1-8, 10-17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recited that “the first differential transistor pair has substrates connected to a supply voltage.” AT least this aspect is absent from Kimura (note that substrates of M1 and M2 in FIG. 6 of Kimura are connected to the current source  $I_{ss}$ , not to a supply voltage).

Accordingly, at least for this reason, independent claims 1 and 10 are allowable over Kimura. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejections.

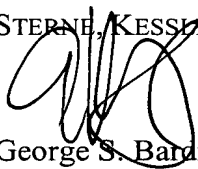
### ***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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